

## EDITORIAL

THERE must be few walks of life, if any, which have remained unaffected by the entry of this country into a state of war. The demand for medical personnel by the various armed forces, the disruption of the peace-time routine of many doctors by the call to new duties under the Emergency Medical Service and decreasing facilities for medical research are all potent factors in the diminution of contributions to the medical literature.

For Editors and Publishers of periodicals limited to the study of special medical subjects these difficulties have become greatly magnified and our apprehension of future difficulties expressed in the last number of *The British Journal of Venereal Diseases* has been fully realised, but it is hoped that our apologies for the delay in the publication of the first number of the present volume and its emergence into a combined issue of the first and second numbers of Volume XVI will be understood and accepted with forbearance by our readers.

That there will be some uncertainty in maintaining the pre-war regularity of the separate quarterly numbers of the journal in the future is only too obvious, but it is hoped that the many difficulties will be overcome, as they can be overcome, if our readers and contributors alike will continue to give us their full and steady support.